

February 13, 2009

Senator Donald J. DeFronzo, Co-Chair
Representative Antonio Guerrero, Co-Chair
Transportation Committee
Room 2300, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator DeFronzo and Representative Guerrero:

I am writing in strong support of S.B. 745 and H.B. 6270 AN ACT CONCERNING TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT. Tweed New Haven Airport plays a critical role in the economy of South Central Connecticut and its growth and success is vital to the future of our region.

In 2008, the region completed its newest Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This CEDS identified Tweed as a top priority for regional economic development. As a public/private regional economic development organization, RGP works with the towns and businesses throughout South Central Connecticut to promote programs and policies that will make our region more competitive in the 21st century global economy. Consistently throughout our work, businesspeople, town officials and residents alike cite a strong and vibrant Tweed New Haven Airport as key to the success of our region's economy.

The economic impact of this airport cannot be overstated. Businesses looking to locate or remain in a region look for easy access by air as a key test of a region's desirability, making the airport a critical asset for our region's competitiveness. Furthermore, local spending by passengers arriving through Tweed helps fuel the local economy, bringing wealth into our region and keeping it here.

Now is the critical time for the state to invest in Tweed. I write to respectfully request your support of the above bills, including \$1.5 million in annual operating support for Tweed New Haven Airport.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions regarding the regional significance of Tweed. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Peter Stein
Acting Director

Cc: John DeStefano, Mayor, City of New Haven
Tim Larson, Executive Director, Tweed New Haven Airport
James Torgerson, Chair, Regional Growth Partnership